

Michael F. Easley
Governor



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NORTH CAROLINA HIGHER EDUCATION COSTS AMONG LOWEST IN THE NATION

RALEIGH - North Carolina's higher education costs are among the lowest in the nation, while other states are increasing college costs by as much as 40 percent, according to a survey by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges in The Washington Post.

"This just goes to show how North Carolina's investment in higher education is paying off for our students," said Easley. "While other states are dramatically hiking tuition, North Carolina is keeping college affordable.

Every state in the nation appears to be imposing their steepest tuition and fee increases in a decade at state colleges and universities this fall because most governors and legislatures this year sharply reduced aid to higher education.

Tuition increases for in-state students since fall 2002 are as much as 21 percent in Maryland, 30 percent in Virginia, 39 percent in Arizona, and 40 percent in California. In contrast, tuition in North Carolina increased by only 5.5 percent.

"While this is good compared to other states, we can and must do better," said Easley. "We must continue to work to find sufficient revenue for education so that we can remain one of the most affordable places to earn a college degree."

The survey found tuition rising at public institutions in all 37 states that have responded so far, almost all as a result of state budget cuts.

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